Agreement with State Governments

597. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade small airfields in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the total estimated cost of upgradation of each of these airports;

(d) whether some State Governments have agreed to enter into agreement with the central Government in upgrading these airports; and

(e) the details of State Governments who have agreed to the proposal and the details of State Government who have not agreed to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans to upgrade various airports in the country such as: Madurai and Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) at an estimated cost of Rs. 99.25 crores and Rs. 42.00 crores respectively; Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) at an estimated cost of Rs. 253 crores; Surat (Gujarat) at an estimated cost of Rs. 49.50 crores; Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh) at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.78 crores; Mangalore, Hubli and Belgaum (Karnataka) at an estimated cost of Rs. 55.26 crores, Rs. 15.00 crores and Rs. 15.00 crores respectively; Dehradun (Uttaranchal) at an estimated cost of Rs. 65.70 crores; Silchar and Dibrugarh (Assam) at an estimated cost of Rs. 30.93 crores and Rs. 69.52 crores respectively and Agatti (Lakshadweep Island) at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.50 crores.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government of Gujarat and Government of Karnataka have agreed and signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AAI for Surat and Mysore airports respectively. Government of Karnataka have also agreed to sign an MoU for development of greenfield airports at Hassan and Gulbarga.

Shifting of ATR Flight Headquarters

598. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ATR Flights are meant for the North-Eastern Region;

(b) the reasons that ATR flights are being operated from Kolkata instead of Guwahati; and

(c) whether Government propose to shift the ATR Flight Headquarters from Kolkata to Guwahati and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Alliance Air has inducted four ATR-42-320 aircraft on dry lease for a period of five years for deployment exclusively in the North East to improve intra regional connectivity. Effective 28.07.2004, Alliance Air has based one ATR aircraft at Guwahati as per the requirements in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the North East Council and Alliance Air.

Kolkata is the main technical base for the ATR aircraft in view of existence of maintenance and other infrastructure. The Kolkata base is also approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation. The positioning of all four ATR aircraft of Alliance Air at Guwahati would not be able to adequately serve the growing requirements of linking North Eastern stations with Kolkata.

Problems relating to upgradation of Amritsar Airport

599. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the upgradation of Amritsar Airport, passengers are facing problems due to (i) limited holding area for arriving passengers (ii) frequent breaking down of baggage belt (iii) congestion of baggage claim area and (iv) non-air-conditioning of the departure and check area;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ongoing and major contract works have also come to a standstill after Government's decision in Feb. 2005 to revive the proposed Terminal Building; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to complete all the works including Arrival/Departure Halls and cargo building units to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There had been some constraints for some time due to construction activities of new international terminal building at Amritsar Airport. However, after commissioning of a new arrival area having 3000 sqm of area and two conveyors of 60 meters length each in